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HARSH WORDS FROM INDOCHINA

ANNCR:

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND RADIO BROADCASTS FROM INDOCHINA INDICATE THAT INTERNAL RESISTANCE REMAINS A PROBLEM FOR VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS. VOA'S EDWARD CONLEY REPORTS:
VOICE:

MONITORED RADIO REPORTS AND AT LEAST ONE ILLUMINATING INTERVIEW WITH A HIGH RANKING SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL POINT TO NAGGING INTERNAL RESISTANCE FACING THE NEW COMMUNIST REGIMES IN INDOCHINA.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER IN MOSCOW, FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH OF SOUTH VIETNAM REPORTED THAT WHAT SHE CALLED A SMALL NUMBER OF OPPONENTS HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN SABOTAGE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. SHE ADDED, WITHOUT ANY SIGNS OF PROOF, THAT THOSE RESISTERS HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH AMERICANS.

THIS TYPE OF ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME COMMONPLACE IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THE LAOS GOVERNMENT HAS BLAMED RECENT OUTBREAKS OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN THAT COUNTRY ON WHAT ARE TERMED "LAO REACTIONARIES", AIDED BY THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES. AGAIN, THE STATEMENT IS UNSUBSTANTIATED BY ANY FACT. THE MOST BLATANT ACCUSATION OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA HAS COME FROM CAMBODIA-- WITH ITS CLAIM THAT UNITED STATES FIGHTER BOMBERS ATTACKED THE TOWN OF SIEM REAP. THAT CHARGE HAS BEEN VEHEMENTLY DENIED BY WASHINGTON--WITH GOOD REASON. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO PLANES OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED BY CAMBODIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

AND THE THINKING OF WESTERN ANALYSTS IS THAT PHNOM PENH'S ACCUSATION IS AN ATTEMPT TO COVER UP DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA OR POSSIBLE CARELESSNESS WHICH LED TO AN ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION OF AMMUNITION. ONE COULD ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES LAW PROHIBITS ITS MILITARY FROM CARRYING OUT AIR STRIKES IN CAMBODIA. AND IF WASHINGTON DID NOT BREAK THAT LAW EVEN AS IT SAW AN ALLY FALL LAST YEAR, THERE IS LESS REASON FOR IT TO DO SO NOW.

THE HARSH WORDS FROM INDOCHINA COME AT A PECULIAR TIME. IRONICALLY, SOME OF THOSE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE FALSELY ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES OF INTERFERENCE ARE, IN STRONG TERMS, DEMANDING ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON TO OVERCOME THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM INSIST THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP SOLVE THEIR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. YET HANOI AND SAIGON JOINED THE CHORUS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED CAMBODIA'S FALSE REPORT OF AN AMERICAN AIRSTRIKE AT SIEM REAP.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE ITS POSITION KNOWN CONCERNING THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF INDOCHINA. AS PRESIDENT FORD MADE CLEAR IN OUTLINING HIS NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE, WASHINGTON HAS NO INTEREST IN HARBORING CONTINUING HOSTILITY TOWARD FORMER ENEMIES IN INDOCHINA AND IS LOOKING TO A HOPEFUL FUTURE IN DEALING WITH THOSE NEW GOVERNMENTS. BUT, AS THE PRESIDENT STRESSED: "AMERICAN POLICIES TOWARD THE NEW REGIMES OF THE PENINSULA WILL BE DETERMINED BY THEIR CONDUCT TOWARD THE UNITED STATES." FALSE AND STRIDENT ACCUSATIONS, OBVIOUSLY, ARE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO THE HEALING OF OLD SORES.